

To Mrs Gray!

New York. Thurs. Morning.

My dear Mrs Gray - I avail myself of the fly-leaf of my despatches to your Lord to thank you for your short, but welcome letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> & more especially for your renewed, & most kind invitation to Cambridge - I do assure you that it would afford me much pleasure to be with you - but, really, I am such a poor feeble creature, at present, that I should feel myself to be a nuisance, even altho' your forbearance would not, I feel well assured, be at any times wanting - I must, however, live in the hope of making you a visit at some future time, when my knees do not, as at present, totter beneath my weight - Should that time ever arrive - I am glad that Mr Adams made you a friendly visit, for really, I thought what you told me something marvellous - In a recent letter to D. Torrey I took occasion to tell him that you & D. J. were raving about all Monday morn, when here, in the vain endeavour to see Mrs J. - I beg my best respects to your good father, & family, I am D<sup>r</sup> Mrs J.

Yr. much obliged Serv<sup>t</sup> Harry

**Paid.**

Five cents to Mr. T. Mott,

Sept 6 to 1854.

Prof. A. Gray

Harvard Univ.

Cambridge.

Massachusetts.

last you will please to fill in, & return to me - observing  
however, that I do not wish it done, the last thing at night -  
when you are too sleepy for any thing else - nor whilst Joe  
(or whoever may now be your messenger) is waiting to take  
your letter to the post - but deliberately, whilst you are  
working at the respective (only 4 or 5) genera - If you make  
out a complete list of the Spading plants - which I suppose  
you will do - would not a certain dear little lady make me  
a copy of it? It may be that I can't read this, as well as the  
original - or better (?) I will inform you wherein your  
views of the Schrophs. differ from Torrey's - when I get your  
return - & his! You will note that the samples extend to  
no. 33. but there are 10 other queries, on the list, to be filled in.  
Every thing is "cut & dried" for you requiring only the specific  
name to be filled in - except where I may have erred as to the  
genus - This I believe is all I have to say of the Spading  
plants -

In the "Manual" I find mention of Echinodorus  
as a "restituted" genus - Surely the English of restituted  
is to restore & not to retribute - It is well that "we"  
did not notice this when commenting on the jargon of  
Latin-English -

I am not satisfied with Acaida. It belongs to  
Amaranthaceae - Has the polished seeds, & char? I think -  
Indeed I think it is a mere Amaranthus, but certainly  
it must go wherever A. tamarisc. is placed - As to the  
bracts &c. what are they, in fact - but "undevelop'd flowers"  
or, at least the normal position for the flowers, which  
some species have a greater or less tendency to develop -  
I have, from Oakes what he calls "Chenopod. rubrum"  
only in flower, however, but the anthers are 3-5, occasionally

It is much too young to show whether the fruit w<sup>d</sup> be vertical  
or horizontal, but I have little doubt it is your *Blitum*  
*polymorphum*, the Char<sup>r</sup>. of which appear to differ in  
nothing, but the number of anthers of form of fruit from  
your *C. rubrum* L. As you cite "Oakes" for *B. polymorph.*  
I think he will have sent me the right plant as his  
"*C. rubrum*" & certainly the anthers vary very much, but  
are often 5! tho' sometimes 1-2 or wanting! & there  
are also barren flowers - clearly so. with 5 stamens, (or at  
least filaments) - often united at the base & This will want  
looking into for the (improved! & enlarged!!) L? Edw.

*Platanthera psychodes* } I do not say that these are not  
*fimbriata* } species - but if they are, they must  
rest upon the arbitrary characters, without reference to  
the respective size of the flowers. I have from Olney  
a single spec<sup>n</sup> of the large-flowered plant, labelled by him  
"*O. grandifl.*" & from himself & others - specimens with  
very small flowers, labelled *P. psychodes*, but which have  
the long fimbriae to the labellum, sharper sepals, &  
"oblong petals fringe-toothed down the sides" - all of which  
belong to *P. fimb.*! I have also very good-sized flowers  
with the short fimbriae & other characters of *P. psychodes*.

I believe I am now through with my "Obs." for this  
time - all very valuable, & deserving of most respectful  
consideration - & by way of a hint, I will mention  
that I have a press copy of my letter to you of the 14<sup>th</sup>.  
& shall take care of this also - so that I shall detect every  
single instance in which my doubts or queries are left  
unresolved! It's all settled "in black & white" with Wilkes & I hear  
nothing from Fovey - Affecy<sup>n</sup> G. S. Edw.